

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: DE LAMEILLIEURE  
FILED: JANUARY 14, 2004 DOCKET NO.: A-9679  
TITLE: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE COMPRESSION AND/OR  
TRANSPORT AND/OR DECOMPRESSION OF A DIGITAL SIGNAL

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January 14, 2004

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On the first page, please amend the paragraph following the heading "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION" as follows:

This application is a divisional application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/573,688, filed May 19, 2000. This application claims the benefit of European patent application No. 99870108.0 filed May 21, 1999, the contents thereof being incorporated herein by reference.